GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4004
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2005
CHIDREN THE NEWEST VICTIMS OF HIV
Jagannath Dr. M.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that under the age of fourteen ,children are the newest victim of HIV as reported in the latest sentinel surveillance report of the Andhra Pradesh AIDS control society as appeared in the `Deccan Chronicle` dated March 3,2005;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to generate awareness among the young folks?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b): Yes Sir.

The HIV sentinel surveillance in Andhra Pradesh was done by National AIDS Control Organization as part of National sentinel surveillance during July - September 2004. As such, children below 15 years age are not included in this sentinel surveillance.

(c): Under the National AIDS Control Programme-II, National AIDS Control Organisation through its State AIDS Control Societies conducts the School AIDS Education Programme through its module `Learning for Life` in a co-curricular manner in IX & XI classes for secondary & higher secondary schools. The module was designed in a consultative process by experts from NACO, NCERT, UNESCO, and UNICEF. The focus is on age and culture appropriate information such that apart from raising awareness on HIV, it also helps young people develop life skills such as resisting peer pressure, saying no, decision making, etc. towards a safe and responsible lifestyle. The activities at the school level include, Training of Teachers and Peer Educators, a nodal teacher - peer educator approach among students, participatory activities like role plays, discussions, debates, competitions, question box and access to referral services, if necessary. Efforts are also made to integrate HIV/AIDS prevention education content into the regular curriculum (text books) and also in Pre-Service/In-Service Teachers training manual. All this is done in close collaboration with the education authorities under the leadership of Ministry of Human Resource Development.